

HOUSE No. 1004

By Mr. Walsh of Boston, petition of Martin J. Walsh relative to the certification of providers of early care and education of school aged children. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT REGARDING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCHOLARSHIP
SERVICES FOR EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION AND SCHOOL AGED CARE
PROFESSIONALS.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. (a) The advisory committee to the Office for
2 Child Care Services and the state advisory council in early care
3 and education to the department of education and the Early Inter-
4 vention Interagency Coordinating Council and the Head Start
5 Association shall jointly establish a comprehensive professional
6 career path linking education, training and experience towards the
7 achievement of early care and education or school age child care
8 certifications, associate's or bachelor's degrees, which is directly
9 connected to compensation guidelines to be the Massachusetts
10 Early Care and Education Career Lattice. (b) The office of child
11 care services, the department of education and the department of
12 public health shall each adopt regulations concerning certification
13 of providers of care to children which are consistent with the
14 Massachusetts Early Care and Education Career Lattice. (c) The
15 office of child care services, the department of education, and the
16 department of public health shall each file a copy of proposed reg-
17 ulations with the chairs of the joint committees of human services
18 and elderly affairs, education, arts and humanities, and commerce
19 and labor within six months after the effective date of this act.

1 SECTION 2. The commonwealth shall create a statewide pro-
2 fessional development and scholarship program to: 1) to support
3 the further education, training and career advancement of early
4 intervention, early care and education and school age care profes-
5 sionals; and 2) to enhance the quality of early care and education
6 by stabilizing the early care and education and school age care
7 workforce by providing educational opportunities and reducing
8 staff turnover; and 3) to expand the capacity of the early care and
9 education and school age care programs to serve more children by
10 building a qualified and stable workforce; and 4) to enable profes-
11 sionals currently employed in a job defined in the Massachusetts
12 Early Care and Education Career Lattice to enroll in courses
13 leading to additional certifications as specified in said lattice.

1 SECTION 3. The department of education shall establish a
2 grant for the administration of the professional development pro-
3 gram and scholarship fund. Applicants for the grant shall be not-
4 for-profit organizations which have worked with the department
5 of education, the office of child care services, and the department
6 of public health; that has experience developing public and private
7 partnerships responsible for workforce development; that repre-
8 sents the interests of all segments of the early care and education
9 and school age care training and service delivery system that
10 works closely with the state agencies that regulate, license, pur-
11 chase or accredit early care and education and school age care
12 providers or settings; that has experience identifying and reme-
13 dying gaps in the early care and education and school age care
14 training delivery system to ensure safe, healthy quality child care
15 for all children; and, can seek funding from businesses and pri-
16 vate foundations.

1 SECTION 4. Proposals from applicants shall include the
2 following:

3 1) a plan to create and provide administrative support to a con-
4 sortium of two and four year colleges and universities which are
5 providers of certification and degree programs for early childhood
6 education and school age care; 2) a plan to work with said consor-
7 tium to create and implement educational advancement opportuni-
8 ties within the career paths established in the Massachusetts Early

9 Care and Education Career Lattice which coordinate the certifi-
10 cate and degree programs offered by the consortium members; 3)
11 a plan to provide a program of skill evaluation and the develop-
12 ment of professional development plans for individual providers
13 through the regional child care resource and referral agencies
14 which includes assisting providers in applying for scholarships; 4)
15 a plan to provide technical assistance to the regional child care
16 resource and referral agencies; 5) a plan for evaluating implemen-
17 tation by the regional child care resource and referral agencies
18 every six months; and 6) a plan to raise funds from businesses,
19 private foundations and other sources for the implementation of
20 the professional development program and scholarship program.

1 SECTION 5. The grant recipient shall file a report on the status
2 of the professional development and scholarship program with the
3 department of education and the joint committee on education,
4 arts and humanities, the joint committee on human services and
5 elderly affairs, and the committees on ways and means one year
6 after the effective date of this act.

1 SECTION 6. Scholarships shall be awarded to providers cur-
2 rently employed in the field of early care and education and
3 school aged care. Persons recommended for scholarships by the
4 regional child care resource and referral agencies pursuant to the
5 professional development and scholarship program established by
6 this act shall be eligible to receive scholarships. Individual schol-
7 arship recipients shall enter into an agreement with the common-
8 wealth to continue to work as a provider of early care and
9 education or school aged care for one year after completion of the
10 educational program for which the scholarship is awarded and to
11 reimburse the awarding organization for the full value of the
12 scholarship if the recipient fails to continue to work as such a
13 provider.